

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3468

To enable America's schools to use their computer hardware to increase student achievement and prepare students for the 21st century workplace, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To enable America's schools to use their computer hardware to increase student achievement and prepare students for the 21st century workplace, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Education for the 21st
5 Century (E–21) Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to enable America's
8 schools to use their computer hardware to increase student

1 achievement and prepare students for the 21st century
2 workplace.

3 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Establishing computer literacy programs for
6 students will help ensure that the Nation's children
7 are receiving the skills needed for advanced edu-
8 cation and for securing employment in the 21st cen-
9 tury.

10 (2) Computer literacy skills, such as informa-
11 tion gathering, critical analysis, and communication
12 with the latest technology, build upon the necessary
13 basics of reading, writing, mathematics, and other
14 core subject areas.

15 (3) According to a study conducted by the Edu-
16 cational Testing Service (ETS), eighth-grade mathe-
17 matics students whose teachers used computers for
18 simulations and applications outperformed students
19 whose teachers did not use such educational tech-
20 nology.

21 (4) Although an ever increasing amount of
22 schools are obtaining the latest computer hardware,
23 schools will not be able to take advantage of the ben-
24 efits of computer-based learning unless teachers are

1 effectively trained in the latest educational software
2 applications.

3 (5) The Educational Testing Service study
4 showed that students whose teachers received train-
5 ing in computers performed better than other stu-
6 dents. The study also found that schools that pro-
7 vide teachers with professional development in com-
8 puters enjoyed higher staff morale and lower absen-
9 teeism rates.

10 (6) Some of the most exciting applications in
11 educational technology are being developed not only
12 by commercial software companies, but also by sec-
13 ondary school and college students. The fruit of this
14 academic talent should be channeled more effectively
15 to benefit the Nation's elementary and secondary
16 schools.

17 **SEC. 4. COMPUTER LITERACY CHALLENGE.**

18 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education
20 is authorized to award grants to States that inte-
21 grate into the State curriculum the goal of making
22 all middle school graduates in the State techno-
23 logically literate.

24 (2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give pref-
25 erence in awarding grants under this section to

1 States that place a priority on training middle school
2 teachers.

3 (b) USES OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this
4 section shall be used for teacher training in technology,
5 with an emphasis on programs that prepare one or more
6 teachers in each elementary, middle, and secondary school
7 in the State to become technology leaders who then serve
8 as experts and train other teachers.

9 (c) MATCHING FUNDS.—Each State shall encourage
10 schools that receive assistance under this section to pro-
11 vide matching funds, with respect to the cost of teacher
12 training in technology to be assisted under this section,
13 in order to enhance the impact of the teacher training and
14 to help ensure that all middle school graduates in the
15 State are technologically literate.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

19 **SEC. 5. HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE FOR ALL**
20 **SCHOOLS.**

21 (a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Sec-
22 retary of Education is authorized to award grants, on a
23 competitive basis, to students in secondary schools and in-
24 stitutions of higher education, working with faculty of an
25 institution of higher education, software developers, and

1 experts in educational technology for the development of
2 high-quality educational software and Internet websites by
3 such students, faculty, developers, and experts.

4 (b) RECOGNITION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education
6 shall recognize outstanding educational software and
7 Internet websites developed with assistance provided
8 under this section.

9 (2) CERTIFICATES.—The President is requested
10 to, and the Secretary shall, issue an official certifi-
11 cate signed by the President or the Secretary (or
12 both), to each student and faculty member who de-
13 velops outstanding educational software or an Inter-
14 net website recognized under this section.

15 (3) FOCUS.—The educational software or Inter-
16 net websites that are recognized under this section
17 shall focus on core curriculum areas.

18 (4) JUDGES.—The Secretary shall designate of-
19 ficial judges to recognize outstanding educational
20 software or Internet websites assisted under this sec-
21 tion.

22 (c) PRIORITY.—

23 (1) FIRST YEAR.—For the first year that the
24 Secretary awards grants under this section, the Sec-
25 retary shall give priority to awarding grants for the

1 development of educational software or Internet
2 websites in the areas of mathematics, science, and
3 reading.

4 (2) SECOND AND THIRD YEARS.—For the sec-
5 ond and third years that the Secretary awards
6 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give
7 priority to awarding grants for the development of
8 educational software or Internet websites in the
9 areas described in paragraph (1) and in social stud-
10 ies, the humanities, and the arts.

11 (d) DOWNLOADING.—Educational software recog-
12 nized under this section shall be made available to local
13 educational agencies for free downloading from the De-
14 partment of Education’s Internet website. Internet
15 websites recognized under this section shall be accessible
16 to any user of the World Wide Web.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

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